

CLAIMS

1. A thermally releasable gel-based flavorant source (300) for use in a smoking article comprising a mixture of a gelling agent, as a dispersing medium, and a dispersed phase which supplies flavor to the flavorant source.
2. A flavorant source (300) according to claim 1, in which the dispersed phase comprises a mixture of aerosol precursor, water and up to 50 percent by weight tobacco particles, the tobacco particles having a particle size of up to 20 mesh.
3. A flavorant source (300) according to claim 2, in which the aerosol precursor is glycerin, 1,3-butanediol or propylene glycol.
4. A flavorant source (300) according to claim 2 or 3, in which the water to aerosol precursor ratio by weight is at least 25/75 and in which the total amount of water and aerosol precursor contained in the flavorant source is such that upon setting of the mixture a gel is formed.
5. A one-piece flavorant source (300) according to any preceding claim.
6. A flavorant source (300) according to any preceding claim in the form of a central cylinder from which a plurality of vanes radiate outward spoke-like.
7. A flavorant source (300) according to any preceding claim, in which the gelling agent is agar, pectin, gelatin, gellan or carrageenan.
8. A flavorant source (300) according to any preceding claim, in which the gelling agent comprises from 1 to 3 percent by weight agar or pectin or from 3.5 to 5 percent by weight gelatin.

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9. A flavor generator (300) for use in a smoking article (10), the smoking article having a heat source (20) and a mouth end (8), the flavor generator comprising:

a chamber (21) having a first opening and a second opening, the first and second openings being connected by nonporous material so as to create a flow passageway; and

a one-piece (300) gel comprising a mixture of a gelling agent, as a dispersing medium, and a dispersed phase which supplies flavor to the source and the dispersed phase comprising a mixture of up to 50 percent by weight tobacco particles, having a particle size of up to 20 mesh, an aerosol precursor and water, the water to aerosol precursor ratio by weight being at least 25/75 and the total amount of water and aerosol precursor contained in the flavorant source being such that upon setting of the mixture a gel is formed.

10. A flavor generator according to claim 9, in which the chamber (21) is substantially cylindrical having a length of between 8 and 14 mm and a diameter of between 4 and 8 mm.

11. A flavor generator according to claim 9 or 10, in which the gel (300) is secured in the flow passageway by means (26) which provide for fluid flow through the chamber (21) with substantially no pressure drop across the chamber.

12. A flavor generator according to claim 9, 10 or 11, in which the gel (300) further comprises a mixture of up to 50 percent by weight tobacco particles, having a particle size up to 100 mesh, and in which the gelling agent is agar, pectin or gelatin, and in which the aerosol precursor is glycerin.

13. A method of making a thermally releasable gel-based material for use in a smoking article comprising:

mixing together a gelling agent, as a dispersing medium, and a dispersed phase component which supplies flavor to the material;

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extruding the mixture through a die to ^{from} ~~from~~ a profiled extrudant material; and

severing the profiled extrudant material to form a one-piece flavor source for use in a smoking article.

14. A method according to claim 13, in which the dispersed phase component is prepared from a mixture comprising: 1) up to 50 percent by weight tobacco particles, having a particle size of up to 20 mesh; 2) an aerosol precursor; and 3) water, the water to aerosol precursor ratio by weight being at least 25/75 and the total amount of water and aerosol precursor contained in the material being such that upon setting of the mixture a gel is formed.

15. A method according to claim 14, in which the aerosol precursor is glycerin, 1,3-butanediol or propylene glycol.

16. A method according to any of claims 13 to 15, in which the gelling agent is agar, pectin, gelatin, gellan or carrageenan.

17. A method according to any of claims 13 to 16, in which the step of extruding the mixture comprises extruding the mixture through a die having an orifice in the shape of a central cylinder from which a plurality of vanes radiate outward spoke-like.

18. A method according to any of claims 13 to 17, in which the step of extruding the mixture comprises passing the mixture out of the die at a rate of from 75 mm to 1.2 m per second (0.25 to about 4 feet per second).

19. A method according to any of claims 13 to 18, in which the gelling agent comprises from 1 to 3 percent by weight agar or pectin or from 3.5 to 5 percent by weight gelatin.

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